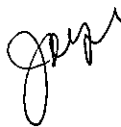


**CITY OF FORT WALTON BEACH, FLORIDA
MEMORANDUM**

DATE: September 4, 2008
TO: Honorable Mayor and Council Members
FROM: Joyce Shanahan, City Manager 
SUBJECT: Resolution 08-39

Background:

Staff has been asked by Council Member Dennis Reeves to draft a Resolution for City Council consideration to confirm the City's commitment and support of the military installations in the community.

Discussion:

The news of proposed developments at Eglin Air Force Base has generated some negative comments in the newspaper, and it is appropriate at this time to publicly offer our support and recognize the positive economic impact Eglin has on the community.

Conclusion:

Staff respectfully requests Council's approval of Resolution 08-39, which will be distributed to all of the towns and cities in Okaloosa County, to the Board of County Commissioners, Representative Jeff Miller, and to Eglin AFB.

Thank you.

/cj

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RESOLUTION 08-39

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF FORT WALTON
BEACH, FLORIDA, TO SUPPORT AND PROMOTE
EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE AND THEIR POSITIVE
ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CITY OF
FORT WALTON BEACH AND OKALOOSA
COUNTY WHILE MAINTAINING AND NURTURING
THEIR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OUR CIVILIAN
COMMUNITIES.**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FORT WALTON
BEACH, FLORIDA:**

1. **INTENT:** The City Council of Fort Walton Beach supports and promotes the mission of Eglin Air Force base.

Eglin is part of one of the nation's largest open-air military testing and training areas known as the Joint Gulf Range Complex. These northwest Florida military installations are all part of the Northwest Florida Greenway partnership. The Joint Gulf Range Complex has a strategic plan to maximize the capability of the unique air, land, and sea resources that exist in the northwest Florida area through a collaboration of the various multi-service military installations strategically positioned here.

The Eglin land range consists of 724 square miles across three counties. In addition to serving as a location for conducting military missions, these ranges also contribute to the area's quality of life by providing recreational activities such as hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and bicycling. Eglin AFB is a very successful steward of the environmental health and sustainment of plant and animal life on its land reservation. Following the 2005 BRAC Commission, Eglin AFB created its growth management plan *Vision 2015*. The idea behind Eglin's Vision 2015 is *Together-We-Win*. In other words, Eglin AFB and the surrounding communities can accomplish more working together than working apart. Working together they both win; we all win; together we win. Incorporated into its Vision 2015 is Eglin's plan for protecting its air, land, and sea buffering zones while simultaneously protecting environmental habitat and providing recreational activities, all supported by and encompassed in the Greenway's conceptual plan.

2. **SUPPORT AND PROMOTION:** The military presence in Okaloosa County is the area's number one economic contributor. In a January 2008 Florida Defense Industry Economic Impact Analysis, conducted by the University of West Florida's Haas Center for Business Research and Economic Development, demonstrated the military impact on Okaloosa County is measured to be just under \$7 Billion annually.

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The economic viability of our region depends on the military. While other economic sectors may experience temporary downturns, the region's military installations continue to be the prime generators of the economy. There is a direct and indirect economic value resulting from this military presence.

It is because of this military presence and its economic contribution to our community that we must continue to support and promote its mission for sustaining Okaloosa's business retention, growth, and prosperity.

- 3. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon approval by City Council.
- 4. **DISTRIBUTION:** Upon signature of the Mayor, this Resolution shall be distributed to the Town of Cinco Bayou, City of Crestview, City of Destin, City of Mary Esther, City of Niceville, Town of Shalimar, Town of Laurel Hill, Town of Valparaiso, Okaloosa County, US Representative Jeff Miller and Eglin Air Force Base.

ADOPTED

Mayor Mike Anderson

ATTESET:

APPROVED FOR FORM:

Helen Spencer, City Clerk

Toni L. Craig, City Attorney

Joyce Shanahan

From: Toni Craig [tonicraig@cox.net]
Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2008 1:57 PM
To: Joyce Shanahan
Subject: Resolution 08 - Eglin Support
Attachments: Resolution 08 - Eglin Support.doc

Joyce

A bit of tinkering with fonts and the introduction. Otherwise, approved for form. Thank you.

Toni L. Craig
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